

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (*original*) A computer implemented method of enabling a user to organize and analyze information in electronic form, comprising the steps of:

(1) searching a first set of documents to thereby generate a second set of documents;

(2) automatically creating a first group comprising said second set of documents;

(3) analyzing said first group according to one or more analytical functions to thereby generate a third set of documents;

(4) automatically creating a second group comprising said third set of documents; and

(5) enabling selective iteration of at least one of steps (1)-(4).

2. (*original*) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: enabling the user to make at least one of said first group and said second group a permanent group.

3. (*original*) The method of claim 1, wherein step (1) comprises the step of: performing a cluster analysis over said first set of documents to create a hierarchical arrangement of groups containing said first set of documents.

4. (*original*) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: (i) performing a relevancy visualization analysis over at least one of said first group and said second group to identify how documents contained therein are inter-related with respect to key terms.

5. (*original*) The method of claim 4, wherein step (i) operates according to a rule book.

6. (*original*) The method of claim 5, wherein said rule book comprises patent specific rules.

7. (*original*) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: (i) generating objects corresponding to process components of a work flow represented by at least steps (1)-(4).

8. (*original*) The method of claim 7, wherein step (i) comprises: generating said objects using object definitions.

9. (*original*) The method of claim 8, wherein said object definitions comprise at least one of:

- a boolean operation object definition;
- a corporate family operating object definition;
- an export object definition;

a folder object definition;
an import object definition;
a list exploder operation object definition;
a list object definition;
a query object definition; and
a patent family dedupe object definition.

10. (*original*) The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of: enabling a user to save one or more of said objects.

11. (*original*) The method of claim 7, further comprising: enabling a user to re-execute said work flow by traversing said objects.

12. (*original*) The method of claim 7, further comprising: enabling a user to create a new work flow by modifying said objects.

13. (*original*) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: enabling a user to annotate at least one of said first group, said second group, and any portion of any document contained in said first group or said second group.

14. (*original*) The method of claim 1, wherein said first set of documents is from at least one of a database, an external source, and over the Internet.

15. (*currently amended*) A computer implemented method of enabling a user to organize and analyze information in electronic form, comprising the steps of:

(1) searching members of a first set of documents to thereby generate a second set of documents;

(2) automatically creating a first group comprising said second set of documents;

(3) analyzing said first group according to one or more analytical functions executed with respect to information stored in an external database, distinct from said first and second sets of documents, to thereby generate a third set of documents;

(4) automatically creating a second group comprising said third set of documents; and

(5) enabling selective iteration of at least one of steps (1)-(4).

16. (*previously presented*) The method of claim 15, wherein said external database comprises a bibliographic information database.

17. (*previously presented*) The method of claim 15, wherein said external database comprises an annotation database, said method further comprising the steps of receiving an annotation of a document and linking the annotation to the document as an entry in the annotation database.

18. (*previously presented*) The method of claim 15, wherein said external database comprises a group information database, said method further comprising defining a group membership information, and storing the group membership information in the group information database.

19. (*previously presented*) The method of claim 15, wherein said one or more analytical functions comprises a clustering analysis of documents within the second set of documents.

20. (*currently amended*) The method of claim 15, wherein said one or more analytical functions comprises a user-interactive relevancy visualization tool, ~~wherein~~ for clustering analysis of documents within the second set of documents.